

hungry and need food at affordable prices. After all, as Michael Hess, a senior administrator of the United States Agency for International development, explained it, "people are making two dollars a day and we're seeing food prices go up around the world."

In other words, what do you expect when people are pushed up against the wall and don't have anywhere else to turn.

The dire food situation in Haiti and the social upheaval it caused have not only dramatized the crisis confronting developing countries as imported food and fertilizers go through the roof in the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East and other regions of the world but it points to the unstable economic and social conditions in Haiti.

Here's a country that is among the poorest of the poor and it is feeling the full force of escalating global food prices. It is clear that the current situation if not remedied soon can lead to mass starvation and undermine its government. In a country which has had more than its fair share of economic and social problems for more than two hundred years, the specter of widespread hunger should be enough to convince donor nations and development institutions that Haiti's problems can't be ignored any longer.

According to estimates by reputable international organizations, Haiti has enough food to satisfy its people's needs but the problem is that millions of nationals can't afford to buy it. That reflects both the chronic long-term poverty picture and the current nightmare of rising food costs. It is as if Haitians are caught between two crushing pinchers.

Obviously time is not on the side of Haitians, a nightmare that's evident in the prediction of aid organizations that the nutritional crisis can lead to further impoverishment. That would be a crying shame for several reasons.

First, the international donor community has promised much to Haiti but has often failed to live up to its word. Last weekends riots underscore the people's plight and the obvious need for prompt international action, a point made by Robert Zoelick, President of the World Bank.

We couldn't agree more.

Secondly, the pace of improvement has been too slow. There is a need to accelerate the rate of overall national development and not simply treat the food crisis as if it were an isolated phenomenon.

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and its unstable political and economic picture is the result of indifference of some of its former leaders and exploitation by foreign governments and interests, especially the U.S. whose role in the country often ignored what's best for the people.

The country cries out for assistance. It has chronic problems of joblessness, high infant mortality, dependence on imported food, inadequate education and health care services and the like.

The riots which left at least seven people, including a Nigerian soldier attached to the United Nations military force, dead and millions of dollars in damage can erupt again if people become convinced that their appeals

for a long-term solution are falling on deaf ears.

So, it's important that a short, medium and long-term solution be implemented with the involvement of Haitians. Far too often tens of millions of dollars were set aside for the country's development but in the end the country remains poor. That's because the average Haitian was never the intended beneficiary. That has perpetuated a cycle of poverty that must be ended so that people there can enjoy the kind of economic success that we know is possible.

But Haitians too have a responsibility to push the process forward. The Haitian Diaspora has played its part, sending back more than \$4 billion to relatives since 2002 and many of the improvements in housing, for instance can be traced directly to the remittances. But the flow of that money is being threatened by the economic slowdown in the United States. It would be a pity because a reduction would heighten suffering. Coupled with the 50 percent rise in food prices since the middle of last year a cut in assistance and remittances would be a triple whammy, widening hunger, social upheaval and desperation.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT (FISA) OF 2008

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I would like to voice my support for H.R. 3773, the FISA Amendments Act of 2008. There is no more important responsibility that Congress is charged with than protecting the American people. H.R. 3773 seeks to find that most critical balance between protecting our security and protecting our liberty.

Without the proposed amendments, FISA Act creates a new "blanket" warrant program that would allow the government to conduct surveillance on groups of foreign targets who may contact U.S. persons, including surveillance of communications to and by such U.S. persons. The new blanket surveillance program authorized in H.R. 3773 allows the Director of National Intelligence and the Attorney General to apply for authority to conduct surveillance of foreign targets, or groups of foreign targets for up to 1 year or longer if necessary.

Additionally, the FISA Act allows the DNI and the Attorney General to begin surveillance activities without a warrant if they jointly believe that there is an emergency situation requiring surveillance to commence before a warrant could be issued.

This legislation allows our intelligence agencies to do their job effectively without trampling on the civil liberties that are the bedrock

of our great society. I hold the principles outlined in our Constitution dear and I will not give up those freedoms easily for a false sense of security. It is time for Congress to stand up for the morals and values that have made this country great, instead of rubber-stamping the policies of the current Administration, which have already cost this country enormously.

I urge all of my colleagues to end the political posturing and join me in support of H.R. 3773 so we can ensure that our national security and our civil liberties are protected.

CONGRATULATING ASU FOR WINNING THE 2008 NCAA WOMEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Arizona State University softball team, winners of the 2008 Women's College World Series.

After finishing an excellent regular season and earning a spot in the WCWS under the leadership of Coach Clint Myers, the Sun Devils reached the cusp of a national championship on Monday, June 2, in a best-of-three series against the Texas A&M Aggies. In front of a record crowd of over 7,000 people at ASA Hall of Fame Stadium in Oklahoma City, star pitcher Katie Burkhart threw an opening-game shutout and Krista Donnenwirth drove in all three of the Sun Devils' runs in a 3-0 win. The Sun Devils then clinched the title Tuesday, June 3, in a game that made the NCAA record books. They started off strong in the third inning, building a 3-0 lead, and did not let up until they had trounced the Aggies 11-0.

Not only did the Sun Devils set a record for the highest margin of victory in Women's College World Series history, but this win marked the first national title for ASU in softball. Arizonans and a national television audience shared in the excitement, pride and sportsmanship ASU's players displayed both on the field and in the dugout during this inspiring victory.

As an alumnus of Arizona State, I am honored and excited to see a team from my alma mater accomplish this feat. This is truly a victory for Sun Devils everywhere. The championship title has been a long time coming for this team, and these women showed that true dedication and persistence can indeed pay off.

Madam Speaker, please join me in celebrating the remarkable success of this team, whose achievements and camaraderie should be models for other teams across the country.